

Amendment #1 to Council Bill (CB) 117781

Sponsor: Licata

Request that the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) prepare a report for the City Council on the effect of allowing urban farms, including those growing marijuana, in Seattle's Manufacturing and Industrial Centers.

The proposed legislation would allow urban farms, including those growing marijuana, to be up to 50,000 square feet in size in the IC, IB, and IG2 zones in the Greater Duwamish and Ballard-Interbay Manufacturing and Industrial Centers (MICs). Because state regulations for marijuana licenses have not been finalized, it is very difficult to quantify the demand for space for marijuana grow operations. This uncertainty has led to debate about the appropriate size limit for urban farms in the MICs.

This amendment would request that DPD gather data about urban farms in industrial zones and report back to Council. This report would be due 18 months after the Washington State Liquor Control Board initially issues marijuana licenses. This would provide about a year of experience and time for the analysis to be prepared. The wording of the amendment is shown below.

Section 6. The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) will report back to Council on the number of permits for urban farms that are issued in industrial zones, the size of the operations, and their locations. Using readily available market data, DPD will also analyze whether these urban farms, if any, have affected the market for industrial land, and if so, in what way. DPD will report to the Council by July 1, 2015.

[Renumber the current section 6, which is the signature block for the bill, to section 7]